4/17/68

Dear Steve,

Just returned from another exhausting but quite successful 10 days in New Orleans. Way behind and brought two weeks of solid work back. I think I have made a major breakthrough about which I can say nothing and encourage you to silence. We'll have to work, wait and see. So will Wesley.

Enclosed are a few more samples of Mark's modesty. I have sent copies to Louis Ivon, withthe same caption on the Washington mailing and a similar one on the PW cover ad. If I can persuade my wife to do it, I'll also send around a copy ~~fax~~ of the letters(unanswered) I sent Holt, Rinehart.

So, young friend, strong disbeliever, now you begin to see what I have been telling you, and now, perhaps, you understand why yougot cut out of your assignment. All you need do is read the Freep story to understand that Mark did all the work on the Zapruder film, whereas I labored under the misapprehension that I first published most of it, that Ray and Lillian made major discoveries, and he contributed nothing - not even when he was supposedly working in the Archives and had access to it before his book was published.

Why, he didn't even notice that the film was damaged -or doctored. Read his book, or consult the index.

Was Jim precluded from letting others than the grand-jury and staff from seeing it? So, Mark, who certainly should have seen it in the Archives, is photographed with it, thus "holding" Jim.

Were those of us who first knew it asked not to use the Dulles stuff, and were we responsible to avoid hurting the investigation? That's why Mark can pretend he dug this up -and not obey the stricture.

Did you know Garrison did have a consultant on Zapruder? It is I who took Sciambra to the Archives, showed it to him, explained it, showed him how to use the slides, which is where you really see something, and thus learned that Photographic Whitewash smoked out the suppressed nine frames, 335-343. Naturally, Mark's name was signed to the memo I was asked to write to show them what they require of LIFE!

Worst of all, because he has seen the film supplied LIFE, is this, that I think you should know but tell no one but Maggie, for it there to go no farthur- the copy Jim has is doctored and is incomplete!

Gary Sanders suddenly becomes an "engineer" who has made "an analysis" of the film he'd known nothing about. Wonderful! We're all long overdue in counting our blessings!

And, quite naturally, all this just happens to coincide, by nothing but coincidence, with the scheduled appearance of the books that tells how Mark did everything, all alone. What are the rest of us working so hard for? It's all over- and he did it! I'm just wondering when Jim is going to forget that $350 watch Mark gave him and start wondering.

I don't know how it happened, but the details of what Rose is supposed to have carried with him were known to Jack Martin -who told me- 18 days ago- when Jim didn't know it (or Sciambra). Here agin, I hope you see what I have been cautioning against.

Anyway, take heart. Do not worry. If there is anything you or I neglect to do-or forget- Mark will be there to pick it up, as he does everything everyone else does. He sat there for an hour one day last week trying to learn what I was telling witness whose security we had to protect with circumlocutions.